

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Notthoff Engineering LA Inc

#### California Manufacturing Technology Consulting

#### Notthoff Engineering Inc. Reduces Waste and Set-up Time with Lean

##### Client Profile:

Notthoff Engineering is a manufacturer of aircraft parts and equipment. The company specializes in high precision machining of steel, aluminum, and titanium parts for the aerospace and defense industry using state-of-the-art machining equipment. Notthoff employs 55 people at its facility in Huntington Beach, California.

##### Situation:

Notthoff's vision was to double the company's sales in three to five years. To grow, Notthoff needed to improve customer satisfaction by improving on-time delivery and quality. To accomplish these objectives, it was critical that the company reduce lead times, reduce work-in-process, improve on-time delivery and increase capacity. It was also critical that equipment set-up time be reduced and down-time minimized, if not eliminated. Notthoff contacted California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

##### Solution:

CMTC initiated a Lean manufacturing program to train Notthoff employees on methods to reduce waste in their set-up processes. Notthoff's team focused on the concepts of 5S for organization and Single Minute Exchange of Die (SMED) to reduce set-up time. CMTC conducted training on basic Lean principles and 5S methods to identify and remove waste in two key pilot production areas. Current set-up processes were then analyzed and the team brainstormed on how to reduce process waste and shorten the time between the 'last good part produced' and the 'first good part produced' on the next job. 5S also helped to decrease equipment downtime by improving machine cleanliness and exposing equipment problems.

##### Results:

- \* Estimated sales increase of \$4 million.
- \* Estimated cost savings of \$500,000.
- \* Reduced set-up time by 50 percent.

##### Testimonial:

"To stay competitive in this industry you need to be Lean and mean. CMTC helped us with the Lean part."

Terry Kaller, President